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Background: The abuse of heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and other dangerous drugs causes serious psychological, social, and health problems in the US, Canada, Western Europe, and other countries including many nations in which these drugs are produced and/or transshipped. The US receives some 4.5 metric tons of heroin, 40-48 metric tons of cocaine, and 9,500-14,000 metric tons of marijuana annually through illicit channels. These drugs have an estimated retail value of \$79 billion. Available data indicate there are more than 400,000 heroin addicts in the US; more than 22.5 million Americans are reported to be current users of marijuana; and more than 4 million people are regular cocaine users. About 90% of the illegal drugs consumed in the US are of foreign origin. Production of these drugs far exceeds estimated demand. For example, if all the illicit coca leaf currently produced were converted to cocaine, it would yield about 150 metric tons of cocaine. Worldwide demand for cocaine is about 55 metric tons a year. In 1981, worldwide illicit opium production was about 1,700 metric tons. Only 45 metric tons of opium are needed to supply heroin to US addicts.

Drug sources: Opium, for conversion to heroin and sale in world markets, is grown primarily in three areas: Mexico; the Golden Triangle of Burma, Thailand, and Laos; and the Golden Crescent of Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Cocaine is derived primarily from coca grown in Bolivia and Peru and trafficked through Colombia, which also has become a coca producer. Marijuana comes primarily from Colombia, although US domestic production and imports from Mexico and Jamaica together supply about a third of the market. Much of the opium and, recently, much of the heroin produced in Southeast and Southwest Asia are consumed by increasingly larger addict populations in those regions. Methaqualone, a tranquilizer increasingly abused in the US and other areas, has been shipped in bulk from Europe and Asia to clandestine labs in Colombia and elsewhere.

Department of State role: The Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics Matters (INM), directed by an assistant secretary, is charged with coordinating the international drug control activities of the US Government. INM aims to strengthen US diplomatic and program efforts to reduce the supply of dangerous drugs entering the US. The Bureau receives about \$40 million annually for bilateral and multilateral narcotics control programs. These funds are used for:

- Crop eradication and control programs;
- Law enforcement assistance;
- Equipment and materials;
- Training of foreign law enforcement personnel;
- Development assistance to provide economic alternatives for illicit narcotics crops; and
- Technical assistance for demand reduction programs.

INM works with the Department's Bureau of International Organization Affairs to coordinate multilateral control efforts with UN agencies, and with narcotics coordinators in the Department's regional bureaus and in US embassies. INM is collaborating with AID on new projects in Peru and Pakistan designed to link narcotics control with development assistance. Relations are also maintained with the White House, Drug Enforcement Administration, US Customs Service, US Coast Guard, and other concerned US agencies.

Narcotics control has been elevated to a higher policymaking level in the Department of State than in any other foreign ministry. The US considers narcotics control a matter of government responsibility under treaties that should be dealt with as international obligations. INM emphasizes that producer and transit countries have the primary responsibility under these treaties for controlling the cultivation, reproduction, and distribution of illicit narcotics. In assisting these countries, INM places highest priority on programs to control production at the source.

Programs: The worldwide supply of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and other drugs is so great, and trafficking channels to the US so diverse, that major interdictions and even crop eradications cause only temporary declines in availability when achieved in just one or two producing areas. INM's strategy is based on the ultimate objective of simultaneously controlling production in all key geographic sectors so that significant and lasting reductions are achieved.

INM has control projects in key opium producing nations (Burma, Thailand, Mexico, and Pakistan) and in transit countries through which opium is refined into heroin or transshipped. INM has coca control and cocaine interdiction projects in Peru and Colombia and is negotiating one with Bolivia. INM supports projects to control marijuana trafficking in Mexico and Colombia. It also supports interdiction and enforcement efforts in other producer and transit nations in the three target regions--Latin America and Southeast and Southwest Asia--and assists dozens of countries through INM-funded law enforcement and customs training programs.

Multilateral efforts: Drug abuse is not just an American problem; it affects all nations from the poorest to the wealthiest, countries which produce and traffic in drugs, and those which are consumers. Historically, the US Government has borne much of the cost of international control programs; now it is urging other nations to assist through their own bilateral programs, through direct economic assistance to producer countries, and through multilateral activities. The US Government also has urged international financial institutions to target development programs in narcotics-producing areas whenever feasible. The US Government promotes awareness of the international narcotics problem in the UN General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and other UN offices. UN agencies apply controls on the flow and use of narcotic and psychotropic substances and coordinate multilateral efforts to control production, trafficking, and abuse. These latter efforts are directed by the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, its Division for Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board, and the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control, which supports key control projects throughout the world. The US Government is the largest contributor to the fund and its projects.